

P.L. 2005, CHAPTER 266, *approved January 5, 2006*

Assembly, No. 2233

1 **AN ACT** requiring school districts to provide alternative education
2 projects to pupils who choose not to participate in certain activities
3 and supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
4 Statutes.

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6 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
7 *of New Jersey:*

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9 1. As used in this act:

10 "Alternative education project" means the use of video tapes,
11 models, films, books, computers, or any other tools which provide an
12 alternative method for obtaining and testing the knowledge,
13 information, or experience required by a course of study.

14 "Animal" means any living organism that is an invertebrate, or is in
15 the phylum chordata or organisms which have a notochord and
16 includes an animal's cadaver or severed parts of an animal's cadaver.

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18 2. a. A public school pupil from kindergarten through grade 12
19 may refuse to dissect, vivisect, incubate, capture or otherwise harm or
20 destroy animals or any parts thereof as part of a course of instruction.

21 b. A school shall notify pupils and their parents or guardians at the
22 beginning of each school year of the right to decline to participate in
23 the activities enumerated in subsection a. of this section and shall
24 authorize parents or guardians to assert the right of their children to
25 refuse to participate in these activities. Within two weeks of the
26 receipt of the notice, the pupils, parents or guardians shall notify the
27 school if the right to decline participation in the enumerated activities
28 will be exercised.

29 c. Any pupil who chooses to refrain from participation in or
30 observation of a portion of a course of instruction in accordance with
31 this section shall be offered an alternative education project for the
32 purpose of providing the pupil with the factual knowledge, information
33 or experience required by the course of study. A pupil may refuse to
34 participate in an alternative education project which involves or
35 necessitates any harmful use of an animal or animal parts.

36 d. A pupil shall not be discriminated against, in grading or in any
37 other manner, based upon a decision to exercise the rights afforded
38 pursuant to this act.

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40 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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3 This bill provides that public school pupils may refuse to dissect,
4 vivisect, incubate, capture or otherwise harm or destroy animals or any
5 parts thereof as part of their course of instruction. Any pupil choosing
6 not to participate in such activities must be provided with an
7 alternative education project by the school for the purpose of
8 providing the pupil with the factual knowledge, information or
9 experience required by the course of study. The bill also provides that
10 a pupil may not be discriminated against, in grading or otherwise,
11 based upon his or her decision to exercise the rights afforded in this
12 act.

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17 Provides that public school pupils may choose not to participate in
18 certain experiments involving animals and requires schools to provide
19 alternative education project.